



## Teradata Bridges the Gap Between SAP BW and Enterprise Data

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**SAP** and **NCR Teradata** have collaborated on technology that allows large amounts of non-*R/3* data to be analyzed through the lens of SAP's *Business Information Warehouse (BW)*, giving business users the benefits of integrated analysis without requiring *BW* to store all enterprise data.

**The Bottom Line:** Connector technology developed in conjunction with SAP and NCR Teradata allows data stored in the *Teradata Data Warehouse* to be viewed as though it were stored in *BW*, giving companies the benefits of Teradata's scalability and *BW*'s power to rationalize the *R/3* data model.

**What It Means:** Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) vendors often provide dedicated data warehouses for ERP-focused analytics, and SAP is no exception. SAP's *BW* offers a self-contained infrastructure for *R/3* analytics, along with an end-user interface, *Business Explorer (BEx)*. The introduction of *BW* several years ago answered the call of companies that needed in-depth analytics but did not want to continue writing ABAP reports or building extracts against raw *R/3* tables.

### Data outside of *R/3* puts companies in a *BW* quandary

While most believe *BW* is the ideal platform for analyzing data from *R/3*, there is less agreement about incorporating other enterprise data, such as Point-of-Sale (POS) information, syndicated analytics, transactions from other ERP vendors, and data from homegrown systems.

Companies that already use *BW* will naturally wonder, "Since business users view *BW* as a central data warehouse and are accustomed to using *BEx*, should non-*R/3* data be placed there as well?"

When the amount of non-*R/3* data is small, the answer is usually yes if the company has no other data warehouse. However, when non-*R/3* data is overwhelming, the decision is more controversial. Companies that have other data warehouses will be tempted to place non-*R/3* data there. For those that only have *BW*, the onslaught of data can argue for a new data warehousing strategy in which *BW* is just one part of a larger whole. In either case, coordinating analysis between multiple data sources is difficult.

### NCR Teradata provides an answer

With the addition of SAP's *JCo* application server, connector technology developed in conjunction with SAP and NCR Teradata is designed to let business users view data stored in the *Teradata Data Warehouse* as though it were stored in *BW*. *Teradata* is similar to databases from **IBM**, **Microsoft**, and **Oracle**, but is particularly distinguished in several areas:

- **Enterprise paradigm**--Teradata promotes a specific-data warehouse paradigm: There ought to be only one instance of a data warehouse, promoting a consistent definition of data items across multiple business purposes.
- **Scalability**--Teradata scales well past the dozens of terabytes with thousands of users. It is difficult to conceive of a data warehousing scenario where Teradata would reach its limits. Indeed, AMR Research has verified a single-instance *Teradata* data warehouse in excess of 60 terabytes.
- **Low administrative burden**--Teradata takes responsibility for performing initial database tuning and installing ongoing software patches. Database administrators have only a small number of parameters they need to regulate.
- **Appliance framework**--Teradata systems are provided as a hardware-software combination, using Intel-based hardware manufactured by NCR.

*Teradata* is not cheap, but it is price-competitive with Oracle's database and IBM's *DB2*.

The SAP-Teradata connector takes advantage of *BW*'s *Virtual InfoCubes*, allowing the full *BEx* interface (or other Business Intelligence tools) to query data stored in either place through one exposed data source. To the business user, this process is completely transparent.

**Recommendations:** This technology gives companies the best of both worlds: *BW*'s power to rationalize *R/3* data, and *Teradata*'s massive scalability. For business users struggling to perform analysis across multiple data sources, the SAP-Teradata connector provides relief. We recommend companies using *R/3* to seriously consider the *BW/Teradata* combination as part of an overall enterprise data warehousing strategy.